



Bene't Street 1964 - 246.28

c.44.6: Cambridge BENE'T STREET Chronicle

1898 05 09

St Bene't's Church, Cambridge, reopened for public service with an improved organ and newly elected organ chamber, beside several minor renovations in the decoration of the interior of the building. Archdeacon Emery said that the condition of the Church in 1849, when he was ordained Deacon, with its organ Gallery at the West End, and those high pews in the nave, and green baized pews in the Chancel was then far different to what it was now. Since that time the South aisle had been erected, the West End and Tower opened and restored, the Chancel and church generally restored and seated in such a manner that all the worshippers could feel they formed one family of God.

1907 05 11

A policeman described how he secreted himself in a larder and kept observation on the Eagle Inn, Bene't Street. He could see who entered the yard and overhear conversation in the smoke-room on the other side of a lath and plaster wall. He heard talk relating to horse racing and telephonic messages being passed to certain address giving the names of horses and mentioning sums of money. Police raided the inn and the landlord was committed for trial 07 05 11a

1908 03 05

Sir – old houses in Bene't Street have rings under their eaves which are said to enable the roof to be pulled off in event of fire. But a few years ago I saw a bulky piece of furniture being drawn up to the second floor of one such property and taken in through the window. I noticed the ropes were passing through these rings under the eaves. It is obvious that to take a piano or large chest of drawers up the narrow winding staircases would be an impossibility so they were a wise provision - R. Cleaver, Chesterton. 08 03 05

1908 08 28

An object of great curiosity has been returned to St Bene't's Church. The Black Letter Bible presented by Hobson the carrier has been missing for the last 30 years. It was discovered in the University Library where it had been sent for safe keeping when the church was restored. It has marginal notes in the writing of the donor and was at one time in a house in the parish when a charge of sixpence was made for its inspection. CWN 08 08 28 p5

1910 05 13

William Hockey was the founder of the well-known auctioneering firm based in Bene't Street. As the agent for the De Freville Estate he had much to do with the development and planning of that part of New Chesterton which has rapidly become of so much importance. He also held an important and confidential position at Trinity College, where he was highly regarded, and was Secretary of the Excelsior Building Society. For the past 20 years he was a very well-known and popular figure in the business life of Cambridge. 10 05 13k

1911 02 17

A taxi driver was summoned for dangerous driving. Richard Glasscock, cabdriver was driving a horse attached to a brougham on King's Parade with three passengers when a taxi came out of Bene't Street on the wrong side of the road at about 12 mph. He had to pull the horse on to the middle of the road and hit it with the whip to get away. The taxi caught the hub of the hind wheel and smashed the springs. Its driver had said his steering gear had been locked for two days. The Mayor said taxi-cabs were driven too fast and fined the driver five shillings 11 02 17

1911 12 22

During the week 274 persons have been supplied by the Mayor's soup kitchen and 73 gallons of soup, nine lbs of dripping and six stone of bread have been distributed. Meat, bones etc have been received from Mr W. Robinson of Bene't Street and other butchers, while G.H. French of East Road has given pea flour and Mr Wallis of Haslingfield, swedes. The sale of bone has realised one shilling and tenpence. The mayor has promised to distribute oranges today and Mrs Prior, Furniss Lodge, has kindly promised 150 mince pies. 11 12 22a

1925 07 18

The R.A.C. has now opened an additional local office at no.1 Bene't Street, Cambridge, in the heart of the town, and will be of service not only to residents but also to visitors, who will find information about the colleges and other points of interest. A spacious reading room is provided for the use of associate members. The office will cover the counties of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire & Bedfordshire.

11936 03 28

Under new restrictions Cambridge motorists may not travel from Market Hill towards Trinity Street or into Bene't Street from King's Parade. You may not drive into Sussex Street from Hobson Street or into Corn Exchange Street from Downing Street, nor turn at Burton's Corner, Petty Cury to go to the Victoria Cinema or from Wheeler Street into Peas Hill to get to the Arts Theatre. But cyclists may walk with their bicycles either way as they do at present in Petty Cury and Market Street. Restaurants will have to speed up their service if they wish to cater for those who leave their cars outside, for only a quarter of an hour is permitted. Travellers who do not want to get indigestion had better make use of a parking space! 36 03 28b

1937 09 06

The famous Festival Grill has been reborn. Connoisseurs of good food and good wine need no longer journey to Newmarket Road as the Grill has opened in more commodious premises at the corner of Bene't Street and King's Parade. It has a new name, the Festival Restaurant with a new sherry and oyster bar which together with the restaurant under the direction of Toni, is first-class in every respect. Its delightful colour scheme of red, black and cream ensures the rooms are bright but not garish and it will become one of the best-known rendezvous. 37 10 06a

1937 10 23

Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company's new workshops and depots in Rustat Road would lead to improved service, enhanced efficiency and – sooner or later – reduced charges. The old premises in Bene't Street had been a veritable shambles and disgrace with pipes stored at the disused Cherry Hinton and Fulbourn pumping stations. They would wage ceaseless war against waste by leakage and had a gang of plumbers ready to deal with any emergency 24 hours a day with the promptitude of the London Fire Brigade. 37 10 23b

1943 06 07

Painting of an aircraft in flight, autographed by British and American service men has been subject of a competition in aid of Prisoners of War Fund at Eagle in Bene't Street. Other men have covered ceiling with lipstick or lighter flame records of their own units – 43 06 07

1945 01 05

Runaway Pony. At about 11.20 a.m. on Tuesday a pony and trap was left outside Messrs Holland and Blackwell's shop in Pembroke Street, when the pony took fright. It turned into Trumpington Street and ran towards King's Parade land at the corner of Bene't Street and King's Parade struck a lamp standard. The trap and harness were damaged, and the pony having freed itself, ran along King's Parade and Trinity Street, being finally stopped uninjured in St. John's Street, It caused no further damage.

1948 11 26

St Bene't's tower, p4

1949 05 13

A director of the firm of Findlater, Mackie and Todd, brewers, applied to turn the premises known as the Festival Grill, King's Parade, Cambridge, into fully licensed premises with meals provided. In April 1946 he had acquired the business of the Hope Inn, Bene't Street, the ground floor of which was used as an ordinary bar, whilst the first floor was converted into two wine parlours. These had become very popular but attracted a totally different type of clientele from the ground floor bar.

1951 03 22

Cambridge has some 150 inn signs hanging outside licensed premises. It is probable that Cambridge was the first place where public house signs were made compulsory by law. An Act passed in 1430 laid down "whoever shall brew ale in the town of Cambridge with intention of selling it must hang out a sign, otherwise he shall forfeit his ale. The Eagle and Child in Bene't Street was called by irreverent undergraduates "The Bird and Baby". There was also a "Swan and Sugarloaf", (now the Still and Sugarloaf) which was nicknamed the Duck and Acid Drop.

1953 02 23

A new branch of the Westminster Bank opened in Fitzroy Street, Cambridge, a fairly busy district which up to now has not been served by a bank of any sort. Inside the visitor is greeted with an attractively decorated modern interior. Cheques will be taken to the parent branch in Bene't Street where they are photographed and available for the customer to examine. An interesting feature is that a night safe has been provided. The first person to open an account was Geoffrey Nichols, of the Free Press, Prospect Row

1953 03 17

Business at the Bene't Street, Cambridge, branch of Barclay's Bank has expanded to such a degree over recent years that additional premises are required to handle an 'overflow' of work. Now a new bank has been built at 3, St Andrew's Street. The counter is made of Honduras mahogany and glass panelling is extensively used, a modern feature which nevertheless preserves the traditional dignity of a bank. There is a unique feature about the new bank. Alongside the wall facing the church is a line of thirty tombstones, some 250 years old, which had to be displaced during building operations

1957 03 03

Cambridge Water Company originally hoped the new Great Wilbraham pumping station would help meet the ever-growing demand, even in times of severe drought, until 1965. But the experiences of last summer have prompted a less optimistic view and they were sinking a trial bore near Stapleford. They are also moving from Bene't Street, where they have been since 1866, to new offices in Rustat Road. 58 03 03

1961 05 29

Westminster Bank opened their first Cambridge branch at the junction of Trumpington Street and Bene't Street in 1845. It was closely connected with University and College life and the original premises have been enlarged several times. Now a continued expansion in business has seen a handsome new bank in St Andrew's Street together with the modernisation of the one in Fitzroy Street which opened in 1952 to cater for that active and expanding shopping area 61 05 29a

1964 07 23

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Bene't Street – 64 07 23-23c

1969 12 03

Barclay's Bank extension, Bene't St – photo – 69 12 03a

1970 06 25

Barclays Bank modernise Bene't St HQ – feature – 70 06 25b & c

1973 10 30

Plans by a London catering company to convert the 17th century Bath Hotel in Bene't St, Cambridge, into a steak bar rival to the Turks Head have been vetoed by Corpus Christi College who own the site. Dr Peter Lewis said, "We don't want to change the atmosphere of the Bath Hotel and these plans would have done that too drastically". The Bath Hotel is basically a 17th century building with extensive 18th century modifications. West End Catering, who put forward the proposal said, "The college's grounds for refusal are absolutely unreasonable and invalid. The dons seemed to be examining our plans as a viable place for them to eat instead of examining them in terms of popular catering"

1985 05 24

The Landlord of the Eagle in Bene't Street is in favour of all-day opening: the pub is often still packed when drinking-up time is called in the afternoons and many people try to get a drink between 3pm and 6pm. Later hours would be attractive to tourists who don't have to get up for work next day. But the landlord of the Robin Hood and Little John, Cherry Hinton, says it would have little effect on out-of-town pubs and the Queen's Head at Newton say prices would have to go up to pay for staff wages 85 05 24a

1987 11 06

Vision Park, the controversial office and high-tech development in Histon, has gained a major first tenant which suggests that the developers were right in thinking Histon was an acceptable business location. Construction of a second phase on the former Chivers site across Station Road started in August. Barclays Bank is taking half of the first completed building to replace their head office above

the bank in Bene't Street. The move follows Lloyds Bank's decision to take a large headquarters block at Castle Park, Shire Hall and Midland's move of its management team to Parkers House in Regent Street. 87 11 05b

1988 04 18

The historic Eagle Hotel in Bene't Street has closed for a year or two while building work is carried out nearby. It has been favourite of tourists, dons and actors from the Arts Theatre. The people who discovered DNA were regulars and the traitor, Kim Philby, also drank there. Former RAF Chief Technician, James Chainey, who has made a study of the wartime writings on the ceiling, was among the final drinkers. But late arrivals found many of the pumps had already run dry and some of the fittings taken down 88 04 18

1990 03 07

Eagle Inn, Bene't Street to re-open – 90 03 07a